

REMARKS

Claims 5-16 remain in the application. Claims 5-7, 9-11, and 13-16 have been amended. Claims 17-19 have been added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office action, Applicant has provided Replacement and New Drawing Sheets as needed to include new and corrected reference numerals added to the specification, as suggested in the Office Action, to enumerate all elements listed in the claimed subject matter and those added to the description which are shown in the drawings. A new Figure 17 has been added and copied from original Figure 13 but having new reference numerals pertaining to the third stage evaporator recited in the claims. This evaporator is identical to the second stage evaporator except for dimensional changes, not claimed, required for application in the third stage of the four stage model illustrated in Figure 16. Withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to overcome the objections by deleting matter introduced in the previous amendment, which may be considered to be new matter. Also, the phrase "...inserted one inside each other on a horizontal base" is not new matter, since the bottom sheet of the base 52 or 38 is clearly shown to be horizontal in all the figures and supports all of the evaporators. The paragraphs beginning on page 1, line 29 and page 4, line 14 of the original specification have been amended to specify that the evaporator stages are connected in series (as recited in claim 5). This is clear from the fact that vapor and residual salt water formed in the first stage are conducted to the following stage to heat its tube bundle and form additional vapor in the tubes while forming condensate from vapor partially condensed on the outside of the tubes. This process is repeated with additional evaporators in the second and third models. See the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16 of the specification as filed.

The fourth evaporator is renamed the final evaporator 71 as it is used in the four stage model and all the other models. The floating heads include floating head 21 of the final stage and 48 from the second stage (from the original specification) and 48' in the third stage as amended.

The first six paragraphs amended on pages 2 and 3 of this amendment pertain to background of the present invention. Thus, portions added in the prior amendment are not believed to be new matter as to the present invention. The present changes restore some of the original language, make spelling corrections and delete unnecessary matter.

The present amendments replacing paragraphs in the Detailed Description of the Invention are based on the present and new drawings and add names and reference numerals as necessary to support the amended claims. Spelling corrections are also made. Further, the name of the second stage of the two stage model of the apparatus is changed to the final stage, along with all the components referring thereto. This final stage is the same in the first, second and third models so the name change facilitates the use of dependent claims for the second and third models as well as for the subsequent claims.

Claims 5-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, but were found allowable if rewritten to overcome these rejections. The claims have been amended to supply structural cooperative relationships as required as well as clarifying operational material. Withdrawal of the Section 112, first and second paragraph rejections is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been introduced into the application by the present amendments, since all the changes in the application are based on the original drawings and disclosure of the original application. Both original and new terms forming the claimed subject matter are supported by features identified with reference numerals in the drawings and terms recited in the specification.

It should be clear that the distillation apparatus recited in each of the claims is a complete unit having both evaporation and condensation functions. Referring, for

example, to the two stage model recited in claim 5, the first stage evaporator operates to produce both heated vapor and residual undistilled water carried by suction into the first vapor chamber. The residual water is carried by vacuum and gravity feed means from the first vapor chamber to the second stage floating head where it is suctioned into the tubes of the second stage bundle. The first stage vapor is directed against the tubes of the second stage tube bundle where it loses heat to the residual water in the second stage tubes to further vaporize the water in the second stage evaporator. However, the vapor from the first stage is partially condensed on the second stage tubes as it loses heat, and it forms condensate that is drawn off from the second stage evaporator, which acts also as a condensor. Thus, the two evaporators of the apparatus can produce condensate without the presence of a final condenser and thus qualify as a distillation apparatus. In this case, the vapor formed in the second stage evaporator may be used for other purposes than distillation, such as heating.

If desired, the distillation capacity of the apparatus may be increased by providing a final condenser as shown in the two stage model of Fig. 1 and applied also to the other models as recited in claims 13 to 19 of the application as amended.

The application has been reviewed and amended to correct word spellings and other errors including those referred to in the Office Action.

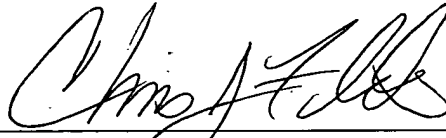
Since the subject matter of the previous claims was indicated as being allowable and the case has been extensively revised to overcome all objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the final rejection and allowance of the case is respectfully requested.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Further, this amendment should be entered as it places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. No further search or consideration is required. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fildes & Outland, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets are provided for sheets 1-8 of the drawings, which contain Figures 1-16. A new drawing sheet 9 is also provided containing a new Figure 17, which is a copy of Figure 13 with new reference numerals.

The illustrations in the drawings are unchanged from the prior drawing figures except for new and amended reference numerals that are supported in the specification. Accordingly, no new matter is contained in the drawing illustrations.